a miscellany of fortean curiosities

THE NEWS

RUMBLINGS FROM ARTHUR'S TABLE.

Llandrillo: 23 Jan 74... quake; meteor; what?

WILLIAM PORTER REVIEWS THE REPORTS p10

also in this issue . . . runaway train. p5 . . . lunar lights. p6 . . . hoaxes. p7 . . . enigmatic sphere. p8 . . . marine mysteries. p14 . . . 'coincidences'. p15 . . . Paul Screeton on Leys. p16 . . . insect swarms. p17 . . . reviews. p18.

THE NEWS

VOL.1. No.5.
July.
1974.

THE NEWS is a non-profit making bi-monthly miscellany of Fortean news and notes; edited & published by Robert JM Rickard: 31 Kingswood Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9AN; affiliated to International Fortean Organisation (INFO).

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Per year - UK.....£1.80. USA.....$4.50. or Sterling equivalent in other Countries. NB: Please make out cheques, POs IMOs etc. to RJM Rickard, not The News.

AIRMAIL TRANSFER: Overseas subscribers can 'Airmail Transfer' direct from their bank to our account: RJM Rickard No2. A/c No: 0125008. Lloyds Bank, Priory Ringway, Birmingham B4, England. Sorting Code: 30-96-28.

CONTRIBUTIONS & RIGHTS: Articles & Notes are welcome, and duly credited. All articles in THE NEWS are Copyright of the authors; and the views expressed are not necessarily those of THE NEWS or the Editor. All the Notes may be freely quoted, though we hope for a credit in return.

FORTFEST 74.

The major event in the celebrations of the Fort Centenary is to be held at the Shoreham Americana Hotel, Washington DC, from Aug 9th (Fort's actual birth Date) to Aug 11. Registration for INFO members is $10.00 and $16.00 for non-members.

The planned events so far include talks by: Ralph Blum, 'What we learned from the Fall of '73'; Stuart Greenwood, 'An Aerospace Engineer considers the Unexplained.'; Tim Dinsdale on Lake and Sea Monsters; Aaron Sussman with personal recollection of Fort; William Corliss on the origin of his Fortean Sourcebooks (see REVIEWS, this issue); Sam Moskowitz on early influences on Fort's writings; Allen Greenfield, 'Zen, Mysticism and Forteanism'; ARG Owen of the New Horizons Research Foundation; Paul Willis, 'Gods by the Bushel - The Ancient Astronaut Syndrome.'; and a host of others on a myriad interesting subjects. For more information contact INFO/FORTFEST, PO Box 367, Arlington, Virginia 22210, USA.

'A MAJOR FORTEAN DRAMA'.

Quite independant of the celebration comes news of a production of the 'first major Fortean drama' - 'The Great Caper' by Ken Campbell at the Royal Court Theatre sometime in October. This is a bit later than the Birthday celebrations and we shall bring you more detailed news next issue. Ken Campbell is himself a keen Fortean, and the idea is being discussed of having a short programme of readings from Fort's various writings at the same venue. More details as they become known.

MARK A HALL.

We welcome Mark Hall to our ranks with the first of his collections of current American Forteana. He used to publish a now discontinued Fortean Newsletter called 'From My Files' (FMF) and has agreed to continue his collections as a column in THE NEWS, for which we sincerely thank him and look forward to with great interest. NB. If you see the initials FMF arising in references, then you will know we will be quoting from one of Mark's issues.

INDEX TO THE NEWS, & CHANGE IN TIMETABLE.

We thought you'd like to know the Index to the NEWS is going ahead, and hopefully, will be ready with No 1 of Vol. 2. Strictly speaking Volume 1 should end with No 6, the September issue. But we would like to keep to the year per volume schedule - so here's what we will do. For volume 1 only we will have seven issues, ie. including the November issue. This means that Vol.2 can coincide with the new year. But we will delay the publication dates by one month from No.8. so that we can time things with April (Fools Day), August (Forts Birth month), and Dec. (with a Christmas issue). This will also help avoid certain production difficulties a the printers. Got that? Vol.2 will kick off with No.8. in Feb. 75.

The Index will be free to subscribers - but also available to non-subscribers at a price we shall fix later. It will be indexed under the Type-of-Event; Place-of-Event; Time-of-Event; & NEWSref.

deaths & bodies

We have piles of bodies to clear from our files. We are searching for patterns - something that makes sense out of non-sense. And occasionally our forays for data take us where we would not normally think of going. Here are some of our wanderings: down by the sea shore, along the railway tracks, and even the privacy of someone's home:

DEATH AT HOME.

A young father was still alive after lying for a week in a house, thought to be filled with fumes, and in which his wife and baby girl died. Doom stalked the Lightfoot house in Westwood

Terrace, York. A Home Office pathologist said that the wife and baby were 'almost certainly' killed by carbon-monoxide fumes, thought to have come from a recently fitted central-heating unit. Coroner's Officer PC Gillies said: "It could have been a fault in the installation, or it could have been something like a bird's nest." The alarm was given by a workmate who told the police of Alan Lightfoot's absence...neighbours thought they had gone away. No indication of whether any bird's nest or flue blockage was ever found. What is perhaps more curious, is that the wife had complained of a 'mystery illness' which caused stomach pains, dizziness and sickness. The baby and the husband also caught 'it' - Alan Lightfoot eventually took three weeks off work to recover from what the doctors had diagnosed as flu. We learn that relatives now believe that the fault (if there ever was one) in the heating system was slowly poisoning them. From the Daily Mail, 7 & 8 Jan 74. Credit: P Rogerson.

SUDDEN DEATH.

Turkish villager Dempr Cevik won a £6 bet by eating a whole barbecued lamb. Ten minutes later he dropped dead. London Evening News 9 Jan 74. Credit : Steve Moore.

Mrs Dorothy Smith, 61, caught a bus from Lytham to Blackpool in the afternoon of Wednesday 2 Jan. Her movements for the next 12 hours remain a mystery. She was found unconscious in an open yard behind Blackpool Promenade in the early hours of the 3rd Jan. She was suffering from exposure; had some bruises on her legs; and died later in Blackpool's Victoria Hospital. Police were puzzled by the absence of any evidence of an attack - her handbag containing money was nearby. She never regained consciousness and so could give no clue as to where she had been, or what happened. From Manchester Evening News 3,4 & 7 Jan 74. Credit: Peter Rogerson.

Farmer John F Barratt, 46, of Manor Farm, Enstone near Chipping Norton, was found dead in his car in a field off a minor road from Enstone to Lidstone. Police said foul play was not involved. Birmingham Evening Mail 12 Feb 74.

THE LAST TRAIN.

The decapitated body of a young man was found by BR staff by the track near East Didsbury station near Manchester. He was believed to heve been hit by a train. Manchester Evening News, 11 Jan 74. Four days later the body of a 67-year-old man is found on the rails at Star Lane Bridge, Macclesfield. There is no information whether he jumped, or was run over. Manchester Evening News 16 Jan 74. And the Daily Express (24 Jan 74) tells that a verdict of suicide was ruled on the curious death of Alan Beale, of Great Brickhill, Bucks. His neatly folded tie; and shoes placed by the line, where his decapitated body was found.

The body of an unidentified man was found on a railway line at Crumpsall, Manchester, early on 17 March. (Sunday Express 17 March 74). Indeed Manchester seems to be plagued with bodies near lines - see below and the following section. In the Manchester Evening Mail (26 April 74) we read that the jury deliberating on the death of Mrs Mary E Smith, 69, whose mutilated body was found on the Bury electric line near Woodlands Road station, were unable to decide whether she had committed suicide or not. They returned an open verdict. She was said to have undergone psychiatric treatment following the death of her husband three years ago - but there was little reason to believe that her depression had returned. Credit for all above to Peter Rogerson.

DEATH COMES IN TWOS AND THREES.

The bodies of a mother and her 6-year-old daughter were found in Epping Forest on the 15th Dec 73. In the Sunday Express (16 Dec) they are named as Mrs Sheena Mulhearn and Rachel, who vanished from their Harlow, Essex, home on the 10th Dec. The Daily Express for 17 Dec says that the police are not naming them until a relative from the North-west identifies them. There is said to be no signs of any violence in their deaths - nor is any more information known or available.

Death stalked Barton Road, Stretford, Lancs, on the 8th Jan 74, when two women, quite independently, collapsed and died while walking there within five hours of each other. Mrs Maud Richardson,69, and Mrs Hannah Bradbury,76, were both said to have died of natural causes. Urmston & Stretford Journal 16 Jan 74. Credit: Peter Rogerson.

Two youths were killed when they were hit by a deisel passenger train at Upton, near Birkenhead on the 2nd Jan. On the same day, the body of a 55-year-old woman was found on a railway line, near her home at Hest Bank, Morecombe. A police statement says that foul play was not suspected, which leads us to assume she was not hit by any train. Both items from Manchester Evening News, 3 Jan 74. The Daily Express (6 Feb 74) has a story: Nurse Margaret Forde, 17, was in hospital recovering from stab-wounds, which she received just before mid-night on the 4th - and unknown to her 13 hours later her boyfriend is found dead on the lines at Hale station, Cheshire. He is believed to have died from an overdose of drugs. A suggestive tale that - so make of it what you will.

On 22nd Jan the young parents of twin girls found them both dead in their bed, in the same room the parents shared with them, at a guest house in Hill Lane, Southampton. It is thought they might have suffocated. Daily Express. 23 Jan 74. The Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph of 18 Feb 74, reports the police are investigating the death of a newly-married elderly couple at North Hykeham, Lincoln, but they said they were satisfied that no third party was involved. (Credit: Nigel Watson.) Police were also called in when neighbours could get no answer from the house where two elderly sisters lived. They are called 'eccentric' for not wishing to see anyone.."even the gas and electricity inspectors; relatives

were also turned away from the door." But then there is silence and no familiar repelling of visitors. The police broke in and found both sisters dead. One was found in bed upstairs and believed to have died 'a week ago', surviving the other who lay dead on the living-room floor for five weeks. Daily Mail, 5 & 6 Feb 74.

A 'beautiful girl' and a man were both killed by an express train at Poriton, near Bridgewater, Somerset. The only clue was that she had made a vow that she would not live beyond 22. "Police were convinced it was not a lover's pact. A spokesman said: 'They were not lovers, and we shall probably never know why they died. She was not long married - and had met the man, Sherman Wilson, when they were both receiving treatment for emotional problems. Daily Mail, 28 Jan 74. (Credit for most of above to Peter Rogerson).

A five-year-old boy was found shot dead in a car at Cheddar, Somerset, on the 4th Feb. He was named as Andrew Young from Berrow, Somerset. A Man was found nearby dying from shotgun wounds. He was taken to Bristol Royal Infirmary, where police were said to be treating the case as murder. The next day a similar event occurs - we Forteans who are striving for some understanding of the colossal forces that influence our lives, can only shake our heads, our wonder renewed. These forces don't owe us a living at all. We learn that a four-year-old boy is found dead beside an unconscious man in a parked car in Epping Forest (a favoured venue for mysteries, it seems). The man was taken to St Margaret's Hospital, Epping, Essex Manchester Evening News 5 Feb 74. Credit: Peter Rogerson.

The bodies of two women were washed ashore a few yards apart at Lossiemouth, Morayshire on the 23rd Feb. Perhaps there was some doubt because the man who found them said: "It looked as if the tide had gone out and left them exposed on the sand." The police were called, and it is said to be a mystery because there has been no identification of the bodies, or any evidence that they were connected in some way. From the Daily Mail, 25 Feb 74. Credit: P Rogerson.

A passing car knocked down 6-year-old Norbert Burke playing near his home in Limerick, Irish Republic, on 27 April and began a bizarre triple tragedy. The 44-year-old father of the boy was brought to the scene and collapsed. He was rushed to a nearby hospital where he died of a suspected heart attack. The driver of the car, farmer Gerrard Leonard, 45, also collapsed when he saw the boy, was rushed to the same hospital, where he died of the same suspected complaint.

Police discovered a woman dead with stab wounds when they called at her flat (again on the 27th April) to break the news of her husband's death. The lorry driver, Ron Griffiths of Birch Grove, Ruyton of the Eleven Towns, near Shrewsbury, was found dead in his new Ford Escort five miles away near Burlton. Police say no one else was involved. Nor do they give any information as to whether the two deaths were connected in any other way. Daily Express 28 April 74. (Same for the Triple Tragedy above..sorry.) Credit to Peter Rogerson again, who seems to have a nose for odd deaths.

WASHED UP.

The body of a woman with her ankles tied together was found in the sea off Newhaven, the day before the report appeared in the Daily Express, 5 July 73. The naked body of a middle-aged man was recovered from Bramley Moor dock, Liverpool, by the police, 26 Aug. His clothes, or a pile of clothes assumed to be his, was found neatly stacked - a detail that puts us in mind of the disappearance reported in News 1, p7. This one is from Daily Express, 27 Aug 73. Credit: A Smith. The body of a well-tanned woman, about 40, was floating in the sea near Brighton's Palace Pier on the 11th Nov. Detectives were puzzled because all her underclothes were missing. Daily Express 12 Nov 73.

The Daily Mirror, 22 Dec 73, reports the collapse and death of a young sailor after surfacing from a normal depth in a submarine escape-training tank, in Gosport, Hants. Police recovered the body of a man from the river Weaver about half a mile from the town centre of Northwich on 28 Jan 74 - from the Manchester Evening News of that date. (Credit: P Rogerson.)

On the 6th Feb, the police at Wakefield recovered the body of an old man from a local canal. Daily Mail 7 Feb 74. The Sunday Mirror (17 March 74) describes how three farmworkers found the body of a man floating in the Bristol Channel at Lilstock, near Bridgewater, Somerset. Despite a nationwide inquiry, police have not managed to identify him.

Police are still trying to identify a middle-aged woman found in the Manchester Canal near the docks in the last week of March. They give a description (which we will dispence with here) and say she had been in the water between 4 & 8 weeks. Another mystery body found in the river Methly near Leeds was buried on March 26 in plot G10-5, on a hillside cemetary at Leeds. Police think he might have been a vagrant, but he was clean-shaven, wearing an expensive pair of shoes, and had a spectacle case bearing the name of a local optician...but even this clue drew a blank. He was found sometime near the beginning of March and nothing new is known about him. Sunday Express 12 May 74. Credit for both above - who else but Peter Rogerson?

egnarts

Egnarts is (or are) 'Strange' backwards - and we use it, for want of anything more suitable, to designate a report that does not fit into any ready-made category, and if we chopped it about to fit one, there would be little left worth the telling.

THE RETURN OF THE BLOB.

From the Daily Mail (30 May 73) we learn that a red pulsating membrane found in a Dallas garden has been tantalising scientists. When a bit is cut

off, it regenerates itself, and has increased its size 16 times in a week. That was some time ago, and we haven't heard of any investigation reports - though we have heard of a few other 'yeast'-like growths in the States, some even connected with reported UFO activity. See a review of 'Blob' cases in INFO Journal 10 pp29-30 (with photo of cute furry Blob). Credit for this one: S Moore.

FAIRY FOOTPRINT.

"I do not believe in fairies. I do not believe in ghosts. But for once I feel that the supernatural has set a trap for me. In a way I hope that it has: then I can stop worrying about something that seems to have no real explanation.

My pilgrims walk took me across land that at one time felt the shuffling feet of those struggling from the Isle of Ely to the revered acres of Little Walsingham. A thirty yard stretch of bare sandy soil had, by the searing winds, been given all the consistency of concrete. About 10ft wide, this patch was as smooth as a motorway, and except for one weird feature, as barren. In the centre, perfectly formed and dried hard, was the print of a bare foot.

Nowhere else on this dried ground could I find any other mark. Not a single explanatory indentation. The stretch of ground was too wide for anybody, especially with such a small foot, to have jumped across it, using only one foot to mark the soil when it was soft, in one gigantic leap."

From a nature column by Austin Hatton in Sunday Telegraph 28 April 74.

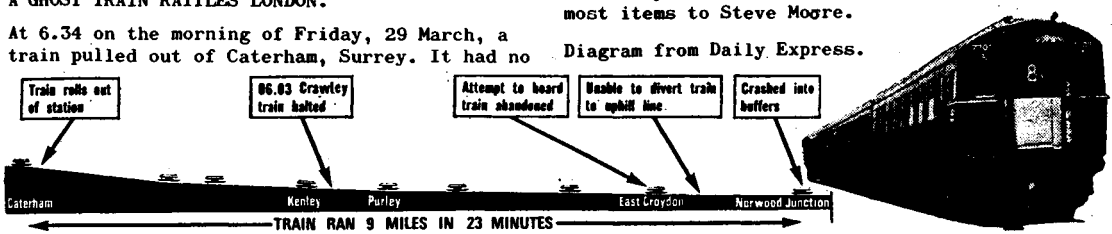
A GHOST TRAIN RATTLES LONDON.

At 6.34 on the morning of Friday, 29 March, a train pulled out of Caterham, Surrey. It had no passengers and no driver. For nine miles it headed for central London on what would be in about half an hour one of the busiest commuter lines, at speeds of up to 40mph. Urgent calls to signal boxes halted or diverted on-coming trains, as the runaway hurtled through seven stations before it was directed into a buffered siding at Norwood Junction.

The train had been readied for its commuter duty, complete with a pre-run test - then the driver and the guard went for a quick cup of tea. None of the four main drive motors had been switched on - and nearly all of the nine miles is on a downward gradient (in fact it was 1-in-90 just outside the station where the train was parked). But neither of these facts account for the train starting - somehow both the airbrake and the 'Dead Man's Handle' had been circumvented or otherwise rendered ineffective. Curiously, both driver and guard were due for retirement within the week.

A report in the press, a week later, said that no public inquiry will be held - and even the results of the private investigation by British Rail may not be published. All-in-all a queer event which seems innocent enough. Lord knows we have enough weird stuff on our hands without suspecting poltergeist hanky-panky - but at the back of our mind are stories of quite a few things which seem to have started up 'on their own', especially a particularly hefty lift which had no power to it, which we must tell about some time. Our sources for the train drama: London Evening News, 29 March; Daily Mirror & Daily Express, 30 March; and Daily Mail for 30 March & 5 April. Credit for most items to Steve Moore.

Diagram from Daily Express.



esp & powers

PROPHETIC - OR INEVITABLE?

On the 1st June this year, the NYPRO plant at Flixborough, Lincs exploded causing considerable loss of life and damage to property. Concern over the safety of the huge cyclohexane tanks used in the manufacture of Nylon was too late. Nigel Watson sent us the following piece from the Scunthorpe Star (7 June 74).

'Macabre and strangely twisted, like the blackened hulk which is all that is left of Nypro - out of the past a prophecy of Saturday's holocaust.

"So you can see that Nypro,
Sometime during June,
Could well be blown to pieces
And be the First Plant on the Moon."

It was written in 1966 and appeared in Nypro's Dutch Newsheet. It is one of 25 verses by Fred Saxby, a shift superintendant at Nypro. He went to Holland in 1966 for training with 24 other men when the plant was first built at Flixborough. It is called 'The Ballard of Big N' and composed to the tune of the 'Lincolnshire Poacher'.

"We're all from Nypro
In famous Lincolnshire.
This is our song to all of you,
So hear it with good cheer."

Eight years ago when the plant first came into operation, it was a popular song. Even the verse about the blowing up in June was treated as a joke. Today nobody is laughing.'

* @ * @ * @ * @ * @ * @ * @ * @ * @ * @ * @

The best stories often appear in your local news papers - so keep your eyes peeled and send your finds to us - NB.note: Date, Source & your Name.

SLEIGHT OF GLAND.

Its old hat now, but Uri Geller was forced to flee Britain after threats on his life. (See most papers around 4 Feb 74)..After going back to Israel, we have a note on a remarkable result of one of Geller's performances in Sweden. It seems that an unnamed Swedish couple were watching Uri on a TV show two months before. The woman went to her doctor who confirmed she was pregnant. They were puzzled because they had had many trouble-free years using IUD contraception. The doctor discovered their copper-coil was so bent out of shape it would have been useless as a contraceptive. The reluctant parents-to-be reckoned the bending happened as a result of watching Geller do his tricks with spoons, etc., and are said to be consulting lawers to see whether she has any claim against Geller. An Immaculate Disception, mebbe...? Sunday Mirror 17 March 74. Credit: R Forrest.(See REVIEWS for the Geller biography.)

DOUBLE HUNCH.

Something roused Mrs Noreen Croasdale from her sleep - and she rushed her husband and four children into the street. Seconds later their house in Wesley St, Accrington, Lancs, collapsed, destroying all their belongings. "I dont know why I woke. Call it a sixth sense. I heard a creaking noise which scared me and I woke my husband. We went out and saw a big hole and cracks in a wall. So we dashed back and got the children. We had been in the street only seconds when the house collapsed." Daily Mirror, Daily Mail 8 Jan 74. Credit: P Rogerson, DJ McAllister. Photo from Daily Mirror.

Mr. Croasdale and his three boys outside their home.

It is possible to rationalise such cases in terms of subliminal awareness, and that the timing was just 'luck'. We have less confidence and doubt whether we understand either of those expressions. Yet Mrs Doris Ingle of Blackpool could not have sensed anything 'subliminally' when her son Clive ,18, was late for supper. She had a 'hunch' that he was still at the bank where he worked and yet something worried her. She called the police who called the Branch manager. Mrs Ingle made the unlikely suggestion of checking the vault - where they found Clive and Stephen Goodall, 17. Both had been trapped in the vault for seven hours - they had gone in at the end of the day to fetch something, and the door was closed on them, and they were not missed as the bank was closed up. Daily Express 14 Feb 74.

PSYCHIC HEAT.

From the SUN (30 May 74) we learn that Dr Gertrude Schmeidler, head of psychology at New York's City College, told of her conversion to belief in powers of psychic healing, to a conference on psychic research. She told of experiments with New York psychic Ingo Swann who was asked to make a metal object hot by mind power. Systematic changes in temperature were recorded in the laboratory as 'occurring at the will of Swann'. "Occasionally the metal's temperature fluctuated by as much as one degree Farenheit in 45 seconds." said the Doctor. Swann was at least 25ft from the set-up. "Perhaps in the same manner, a healer can induce changes in a person's body."

'heavens above'

MOON FLASHES ASTRONAUTS.

It appears that the Apollo 17 moon voyage at Chritmas 1972 encountered a classic Fortean datum only minutes after entering lunar orbit. Jack Schmitt reported excitedly to Houston Control that he had seen a flash near a crater on the moon's surface. Space officials (a particularly riduculous phrase) said the sighting - "The first time any such active event has been seen on the moon " - could be significant, but they had no immediate explanation. They speculated on meteorite impact or volcanic activity - then it seems in the excitement of the landing that followed, this little 'mystery' was soon forgotten. We wonder if any of our readers in the States know of this further. Our thanks to Nigel Watson who rescued this note from oblivion via the Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph 11 Dec 72.

MORE LUNATIC LIGHTS.

From a letter to the Birmingham Evening Mail, 15 March 74:

"On Saturday, March 2, while travelling from Northfield to Hurley, Warwickshire, my husband and I noticed a 'star' near the moon. The moon was just over half and when you completed the circle this 'star' was just outside. We watched this 'star' all the way to Whitacre, Coleshill, where we stopped at traffic lights. The star was still there but when you completed the circle, it now appear-

ed inside the moon. We went a few yards and it just disappeared. Could you please enlighten me if there is a 'star' that close to the moon - or was it a satellite. MRS S Walden; Hurley."

How would Fort have answered that? He certainly would have been delighted at the notion of a star this side of the moon. The paper goes on to quote comment by the Edgbaston Observatory: "If, as it appears, it moved in relation to the moon then it must be nearer the earth, and this would indicate it was a satellite." The good old BEM adds 'Unfortunately they could not say which satellite it may have been.'

We follow this with a little gem from Sweden 1869 which we don't think appears anywhere in Fort. "Natural phenomenon. Yesterday evening at 9 o'-clock a strange natural phenomenon was seen. On both sides of the moon, a new moon, two giant balls were observed and from these balls came white beams of light, directed toward the horizon. The phenomenon lasted for a quarter of an hour." Many thanks to Anders Liljegren for this one, from: Norrkopings Tidningar, October 1869.

A NEW MOON.

Data sent back from the ultra-violet cameras on Mariner 10 zooming by Mercury, are said to reveal the existence of a moon in orbit around that planet. Dr A Lyle Broadfoot of Arizona's Kitt Peak observatory, has enshrined this achievement by naming the discovery 'Charley' after a dog he once had as a child. There's not much we can add to that except that the news comes on April Fool's Day. Daily Mirror, London Evening News 1 April 74. Credit both items: Steve Moore.

hoaxes

YOU CAN FOOL SOME OF THE PEOPLE...

Mark Hall sent us two amusing stories on hoaxes perpetrated in the name of science and advertising. The first, from the HOUSTON (Texas) CHRONICLE 8 May 74, (10/3), concerns a lecture on 'Mathematical Game Theory as Applied to Physical Education ' by 'Dr. Myron L Fox' said to be an authority on the application of maths to human behaviour. His lecture was pure nonsense - meaningless double-talk - but it fooled the 55 educators, school administrators, psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers listening. After the lecture and a 30 minute question period, the listeners were asked to fill out anonymous questionaires to evaluate the performance. 42 agreed that 1) 'Dr Fox' used enough example to clarify the material; 2) the material was well organised; and 3) the lecture stimulated their thinking. 14 registered a minor criticism - that 'Dr Fox' dwelled upon the obvious; and some expressed interest in learning more about the subject.

Not one guessed it was a hoax, and that 'Dr Fox' was an actor hired by three medical educators to prove a point, though one did say the lecture was "too intellectual a presentation." The hypothesis of Dr DH Naftulin, FA Donnelly (both of University of Southern California Medical School) and John E Ware Jr (of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine) was that: "Given a sufficiently impressive lecture paradigm, an experienced group of educators participating in a new learning situation can feel satisfied that they have learned , despite irrelevant, conflicting and meaningless content conveyed by the lecturer." Their purpose, they say, was to demonstrate the importance of the personality factor in teaching. We can't really say that we have learnt anything new in this.

The second story concerns the scientific-looking formula used by the Parker Pen people in a photo which shows someone with a silly habit of noting formulas on the menu in a restaurant - but a good deal more intellectual one-upmanship than picking your nose while you wait to be served. 'We get letter from scientists and chemists who say they can't figure out the formula. Or that it is meaningless." said Gary Moss of the J Walter Thompson ad agency who thought the idea up. In fact it's simple when you know its for a martini: Three and a half shots of gin, plus half a shot of vermouth over four parts of water (taken down to freezing and cubed), then plus three revolutions (stirs) and...voila. The ad ran in Newsweek and Time. "We did get one critical letter...someone asked 'Who ever heard of a martini without an olive?'" From the MILWAUKEE (Wisconsin) JOURNAL 27 May 74.

HOUDINI GETS AWAY AGAIN.

Legend has promised that on the 100th anniversary of his birth, the executors of Harry Houdini's estate will open a box and reveal the secrets of his most mystifying escapes. According to a note in the DAILY MAIL 23 April 74 (Credit: Steve Moore), that date is now past; no lawyer has come forward; and authorities say there is no box.

fowl funnies

THE RIDDLE OF THE BLUE ROOSTER.

Amongst other papers, the Daily Mirror of 2 Jan 74, announced to the world that Charlie the Cockerel, owned by Alan Piper, landlord of the Wild Man Inn, Sproughton, Suffolk, had turned a livid

Continued on page 9.

MARK HALL'S

FORTEANA USA

A myriad of conflicting reports has filled North American newspapers in mid-April about a metal sphere, reportedly found on the estate of the Antoine Betz family near Jacksonville, Florida. The object has been compared to the 'Giant Gyros' found in Australia - and it has also been dismissed as only a ball bearing such as is used as a check-valve in piping at chemical plants. One aspect of the story that is rarely mentioned is the following: "Mrs Betz said her family occasionally hears organ music of late, although there is no organ in the sprawling home. Doors bang without reason, she says, since the sphere showed up." SENTINEL STAR (Orlando, Florida.) 12 April 74. And according to other reports: "...it did strange things, such as rolling around the edges of a table by itself without falling off, and making their dog whimper." ST LOUIS (Missouri) POST DISPATCH 16 April 74 (p14A). Other sources include: SENTINEL STAR (Orlando, Florida) 15 April (p3B), and 16 April (p13A); WINNIPEG FREE PRESS 13 April (p13); MIAMI HERALD 13, 15 & 16 April; CHICAGO TRIBUNE 15 April; CHICAGO DAILY NEWS 16 April; HOUSTON CHRONICLE 14 & 15 April; SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE 15 April; SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER 15 & 17 April.

"A nice, pleasant brain-teaser." is the way Dr J Allen Hynek characterized the mysterious metal sphere when he finally got a look at it. Before he did, publicity about the object prompted many explanations. Anonymous telephone callers suggested: 1) it was a 'giant gyro' such as objects said to be found in Australia after UFO sightings; 2) it was a tide and current transcriber that is floated on a buoy at sea. The US Navy examined the sphere and concluded it was probably "a giant bearing used as a check-valve in the piping systems of chemical plants." At Taos, New Mexico, a sculptor got his measure of attention by claiming the sphere was one he lost while driving through Jacksonville in 1971. He would not divulge the exact origin of the several spheres he said he got for his own use from a friend - but he said they were designed as part of an industrial valve.

Dr James Harder, who ran down to Pascagoula, Miss., last year to look into the UFO activity there, took an interest in the sphere long enough to get quoted in the press, as follows: "Harder said previous sightings of metal spheres were reported in the New England states and off Mississippi 'but not one could we get our hands on.'"

AP Wirephoto. Wayne Betz, 12, and the mystery sphere.

The Jacksonville sphere was eventually examined by many hands. The US Navy described the object as 8 inches in diameter; hollow; empty; high-grade stainless steel to a thickness of half an inch; & with a weight of 21.34 lbs. The UFO panel of scientists for a weekly paper studied the ball at a gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana. There Hynek, Harder and others concluded that it 1) possesses magnetic poles; 2) contains smaller spheres inside; and 3) is almost perfectly ballanced. The last word came from a spokesman for the US Geological Survey, Frank Forrester, who snickered at the activity of the newspaper panel and said the Survey would be "very receptive to analysing fragments" of the mystery ball. Amid all this action, another Jacksonville resident reached into the back of her garage and produced a similar but slightly smaller metal sphere that had lain there for fifteen years. A spokesman for the local St Regis papermill said they recognised that ball as part of a valve used 15 years ago in pipes moving corrosive liquid. Sources include: NEW ORLEANS TIMES-PICAYUNE 23 April; ATLANTA CONSTITUTION 16 April; MIAMI HERALD 18 April; & NATIONAL ENQUIRER 26 May 74.

"Gas from Water - Really?" by Jack Smith, Los Angeles Times Service. Reporter Don Dwiggins recalls his personal experience with a man who claimed and demonstrated that his secret formula, when added to water, would run an automobile. MILWAUKEE JOURNAL 22 March 74. (Green Sheet pages 1,3.)

* * *

The sister of missing balloonist Thomas Gatch returned to Rochester, Minnesota, after spending a month at Gatch's home in Virginia. She said: 'We have had a number of calls from persons claiming psychic powers who envision my brother on islands.' ROCHESTER (Minn.) POST BULLETIN 28 Mar 74 (p18.) Psychic Mrs Marcia Kuhn says she began getting 'receptions' of Gatch on March 8, and that he is dying on the island of Guadeloupe. SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE 29 March 74 (p12) and ARKANSAS GAZETTE 30 March 74 (p7B).

On 30 March a police helicopter searched for a balloon sighted east of Guadelopue. The search centred on the island of Petite Terre. US Vice Consul Thomas Randall at Fort de France, Martinique, confirmed that a balloon had been seen off Guadelope. ST. LOUIS (Missouri) POST DISPATCH 31 March 74 (p5C).

* * *

Dr Edwin Krupp, Curator at the Griffith Observatory, writes about 'Chariots of the Gods?' and its spin-offs: "If the books and the film are convincing, it is because they filter and distort the evidence to conform to a single notion. A more likely possibility is that ancient men were more clever than we moderns are normally willing to believe." LOS ANGELES TIMES 10 Feb 74.

* * *

Photos from the second Skylab mission show a 'cylindrically shaped foreign object' in orbit below the Skylab spacecraft. AVIATION WEEK 7 Jan 74 (p1). UFOs over: Kona, Hawaii on 1 Feb, HONOLULU STAR BULLETIN 2 Feb 74 (pA12) -- Piatra Neamt, Roumania, MIAMI HERALD 16 Feb 74 (p9A) -- Rochester, Minnesota on 19 Feb, ROCHESTER POST BULLETIN 20 Feb 74 (p1).

* * *

Mrs Donald Shoup of Hickory Corners, Michigan, has a chicken that lays double eggs - one inside the other. Six eggs have been found thus far, each weighing about six ounces and containing inside a complete normal egg of about two ounces. ATLANTA (Georgia) CONSTITUTION 9 April 74 (p10A).

Again we read of hens that lay eggs coloured blue green, pink and gold. Mrs William Warnke of Burlington, Kentucky, wisely points out that her chickens are Araucanian fowl developed in Chile and introduced into the USA about 1928. HOUSTON CHRONICLE 14 April 74 (p1). Earlier this year the HOUSTON CHRONICLE (17 Jan) reported coloured eggs from Araucanian fowls in Riverton, Utah.

* * *

A 26-year-old Bridgeport, Connecticut man, Francisco Rodriquez, escaped from police custody on 21 Feb 74 for the 21st time in two years. The State of Connecticut has spent an estimated $100,000 trying to hold him, including $2,000 for a special cell. MILWAUKEE JOURNAL 22 February 74 (Part 1, p7.)

* * *

Frederick Aldrich, a marine biologist at St Johns Memorial University, Newfoundland, has ambitious plans to search at sea for a live giant squid in the next two years. He has studied strandings of the giant creatures for many years and points out that every thirty years there have been numerous strandings of these squid off the Newfoundland coast. He thinks an unexplained cold current that comes in cycles may be responsible. LOS ANGELES TIMES 5 May 74.

* * *

(We would like to thank Loren Coleman, who also sent us cuttings of the Jacksonville Sphere. Ed.)

---

blue overnight. Two vets were said to be baffled, and as if that weren't enough, Mr Piper said that if Charlie was still blue in a couple of days, he'd "..take it up with experts." Our thanks to Loren Coleman and Mark Hall for notes showing this item had got as far as the Press-Scimitar (Memphis, Tenn) 2 Jan - and Houston Chronicle 3 Jan, respectively.

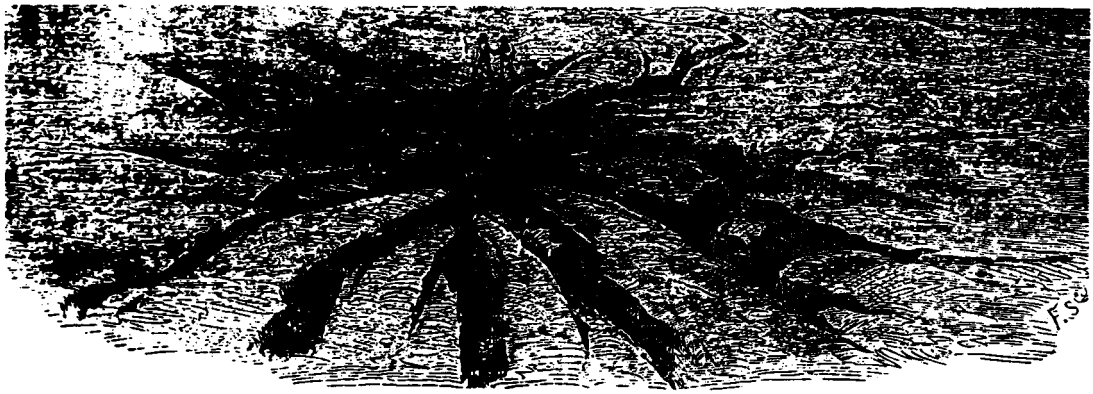
We wrote to several of the local papers to keep tabs on developments, and eventually got stats of clippings from the morgue of the East Anglian Daily Times. (Credit: EADT Librarian Mrs SM Yates) From what we can reconstruct the first account appeared on 29 Dec 73. Mr Piper discovered the change in Charlie the day before. "It just changed overnight to a really stupid colour. It is a brilliant bright blue. It hasn't been sprayed. It is blue under the wings, everywhere. Piper, who also breeds budgerigars, added: "I know you can colour-feed canaries to make them turn red, but that takes weeks. The cockerel turned blue overnight." A vet. in Ipswich said: "I can't see how one is going to get it to consume a dye that would change only its feathers without changing the other tissues. I can't see any dye doing this anyway."

A curious development occurs on the 8th Jan when Mr Piper discovers his profitable attraction missing - there it was, gone. The police were informed but there were no clues to culprit or motive. It was just as though it had upped and vanished. In a cutting from 15 Jan we learn that later someone phoned saying they were holding the bird -and two days later phoned again, saying it was back in its pen - and so it was.

By now Mr Piper is sick of accusations that he had sprayed the bird to attract business, that he resolved to clear the mystery. Charlie, he discovered, is a North Island Blue; a type introduced from America between 1939 - 1945. Mr Pussell Brown got five chicken eggs from a farmer in Suffolk, and Alan Piper's hens hatched them for him. He said: "By all accounts this farmer also has a blue cockerel, so my bird must be a throwback from his." There are photos - but these tell no more than a man holding a cockerel since they are in black and white. We wrote to Mr Piper with some unanswered questions - but no reply to date. It is our feeling that the throwback theory may explain why, but not how, and on that, nothing more is heard of any experts.

Continued on page 13.

William Porter assesses here the news coverage of the 'Thing' that happened at Llandrillo on Jan 23 and a few items of related information. This article was supposed to appear in the last issue but got delayed for a couple of reasons. Mr Porter also reported on the subsequent seismological phenomena in North Wales - see NEWS 4. Cover Note: the illustration used here is only a speculation of what may lie under the Berwyn heather and not any representation of the 'real' thing. It comes from an old encyclopedia we found and undoubtedly will be using again.



RUMBLINGS FROM ARTHUR'S TABLE.

by WILLIAM PORTER

Charles Fort would have been the first to acknowledge and detect the essentially contradictory, elusive and anomalous character of the incident reported initially as a meteoric strike, at the Cadair Bronwen mountain range near Llandrillo in North Wales on the evening of January 23rd 1974.

The national media coverage was frustratingly vague, but speculation was rife. Within two hours of the strike, radio stations reported a blue-green streak that crossed the sky and crashed with a very loud explosion that was heard for miles. It was added that a police search party of six men was sent out, but to no avail.

Several hours on, and news reports postulated that it could have been the re-entry of a Russian rocket section. ITN TV news contributed that a green light was seen traversing in an easterly direction, but at a time subsequent to the reported explosion. It was announced that the Institute of Geological Sciences, Eskdale Muir, Dumfriesshire, reported seismological records of unusually large magnitude. 'News at Ten' showed a detailed map of the Berwyn Hills and speculated that the incident was really an earth tremor. Coast guards were reported to have seen an object in the night sky going in an easterly direction.

By midday of 24th January I allowed myself two points of speculation - that no object would be found in the Berwyn Hills; and that the site will prove to be of prehistoric and/or mystical significance.

While the national newspapers did not cover the story until Friday 25th January , the Liverpool Daily Post reported the incident on the 24th. Testimonies were gathered from local witnesses - the tremor was felt as far away as Hoylake in Cheshire, but there were no reports of injuries or damage. A Llangollen man said it was a vibration that shook his house and knocked a cup and saucer from an armchair. Another said it was more of an earth tremor than an explosion. Local police had received reports from about 8.30pm on.

On Friday morning, the story appeared in the nationals - Daily Mail, Daily Express and Daily Mirror (see NEWS 3), while a short but intelligent piece appeared in The Times. It stated one witness had seen a fire on the mountainside, and a few amateur astronomers from the Isle of Man to Cheshire had tracked what they thought to be a meteor. The Global Seismology Unit of the Institute of Geological Science in Edinburgh, represented by Dr Roy Lilwall, said an earth tremor occurred at 8.38pm and was of magnitude 3.5 to 4. Dr Lilwall had been told that a meteorite had come down sometime after the tremor. He said he was certain that the meteorite had not caused the tremor. To have caused the kind of shaking recorded at Edinburgh, the falling rock would have had to weigh several hundred tons.

However, the best reportage of the Llandrillo incident came from the provincial dailies. On 25th January, the Liverpool Daily Post related that scientists were arguing whether it was a meteorite or an earth tremor that shook most of North Wales. It added that reports of lights in the sky also came from a wide area, although many sightings happened after the tremor itself. Police and Coastguards now believe that many people, especially in the Isle of Man, actually saw an RAF photo-flash night bombing exercise. The Liverpool Daily Post interviewed astronomer Dr Ron Maddison of Keele University who was con-

vinced that a meteorite was responsible. He said: "I've never heard of that part of Wales being prone to any kind of earth tremors, and I don't think there is any other way of explaining the lights that people have seen."

Good coverage too was forthcoming from the Western Mail (25 Jan.) which announced that the scientists had called off a search for a meteorite near Llandrillo because they believed the explosion was caused by an earthquake or severe earth tremor. Drs Maddison and Aneurin Evans are also interviewed after their unsuccessful search. Reports Maddison received did not conclusively prove his initial meteorite theory, or the location of the strike, but on 24th January he had received two more independent sightings of fireballs or bright shooting stars in the Llandrillo area the night of the strike, which tied with previous sightings to strengthen his belief that the explosion was centered on the mountain. Dr Maddison once again returned to scour the whole range by helicopter, but nothing was found. Consequently, the notion of a large impact by a falling object has been dismissed. He added: "Instead we have settled on a more probable seismic ground disturbance."

Another feature in the Western Mail explored the hypothesis of a meteorite strike: if it was a meteorite it would be the largest in Britain; would have travelled at 100,000mph when it entered the earth's atmosphere and would have burned off 50% of its original weight. When it was spotted as a 'glowing ball' over Anglesey shortly before impact it would still have been travelling at thousands of miles per hour. Peter Jones, the science correspondent noted that unless it exploded while still 20 to 30 miles above the Berwyn mountains, or shattered on impact against rock, it is now probably lying under four or five feet of earth. Dr Robert Hutchinson of the Natural History Museum said it could have been 2½' to 5' in diameter and composed of stony material called Olivine with small amounts of iron, nickel, chrome and cobalt. He added that the meteorite was unlikely to have come from Kohoutek's Comet and in fact was not convinced that a meteorite had actually landed at Llandrillo.

The Sunderland Echo, Jan 24, carried an article that described a UFO sighting ⟨ see NEWS 4. p19⟩ which concurred with the events at Llandrillo, however UFO author Raymond Drake doubted any significant connection. On the 26th Jan. the Liverpool Daily Post gave a third day of coverage when it suggested the 'tremor' was caused by a movement along a rock formation fault. Dr. Maddison was interviewed about his final conclusions and said: "We would have expected to find a large scar if a meteorite had fallen, but there was no trace."

Collectively the series of articles, from all the various sources, were as contradictory and basically inconsistent as any that I have so far gathered for analysis. One is confronted with a veritable maze of explanations and glib hypotheses wrapped and neatly packaged for the credulous. A further twist to the story came less than a week later from the Daily Mirror Science correspondent Arthur Smith ⟨ 28 Jan 74⟩: "Last Wednesday's fire ball was comparatively small by fireball standards and probably disintegrated after travelling across East Anglia and Mid-Cheshire. It, in fact, had nothing to do with the 'bang' and lights seen in mid-Wales."

The 'meteoric strike' interpretation was subtlely reinforced when Dr Ron Maddison spoke on BBC Radio 4 (9.30pm on 21st Feb.) on the meteorite that was brighter than the moon and was tracked by a space satellite on the restricted list. The path of the 100-ton meteorite, travelling at 22,000 mph, took it to within 36 miles above Salt Lake City and Calgary in Canada on 10th August 1972. Infrared detection showed that energy loss was at a maximum 58Km from the ground, but if it had struck the Earth, its kinetic energy would have been sufficient to blast a crater 200 meters in diameter. Afull report was published in NATURE 21 February 74. ⟨ Cuttings from the media following this publication were sent to us by Steve Moore and Loren Coleman. - Ed.⟩

The physical bias was to be expected from the scientific fraternity - but on the same day the Nature report appeared, a curious letter was published in the Daily Mirror; Mr WA Gray of Shirehampton, Bristol, wrote: "I have seen two fireballs :one in 1971, the second in 1972, both in the same place. You see, I was only 100 yards from them and felt the impact. All I saw was a collection of electricity whirling around in a ball. On impact it exploded and the electricity went to earth. I missed taking a photograph as I had just closed my camera. And that is all there is to it!"

I urge all free-thinking readers to seriously consider Mr Gray's innocent but potentially more significant description. I must confess to a particular affection for this kind of report, (much of my specific research is centered on wave-band para-electrical distribution at megalithic sites), but solid objective evidence is another matter; one must maintain a sound critical faculty and not allow oneself to become lost in a morass of subjective fantasy. However the application of heretical notions to the problematic incidents at Llandrillo are by no means close to producing an immediate or convenient solution, which if it was forthcoming would strike a much needed blow against all moribund pan-materialistic scientific philosophies.

Of the first hand witnesses from whom I was able to gather reliable testimonies; the Rev. GW Jones vicar of Llandrillo related: "I heard a long rumble which was frightening enough but although I live in a large house with many movable objects in it, not one of them moved that night. A scientist, Dr Maddison, believes it was an earth tremor and the appearance of blue lights was purely coincidental. I am inclined to believe him. In fact I was not worried after the rumble passed and everything was found to be safe that I thought nothing more about it. That is my testimony."

Douglas Hardman of Abergele, Noth Wales, made some interesting comments: "Talking to friends and neighbours, all are agreed that the explosion was felt as a shock wave rather than heard." And that "..certain papers killed the story with the official police conclusion that it was an earthquake and that the general attitude seems to be an anxiety to bury the story."

Heretical the 'powers phenomena' interpretation may be, but just as heretical was the 'meteorite' concept before 1800. In fact it is sobering to think that Parisian scientists in the 18th Century were highly amused when the Juillac Town Council reported to the Academy a fall of stones which had no less than 300 witnesses. Consider the ignorant and over-cynical reaction of the famous physicist Bertholou to the notion that stones can fall from the sky. He wrote, sardonically: "How sad is it to find a town council sanctioning fairy tales. Those who believe in these myths have our sympathy...an obvious falsity, a physically impossible event."

In Britain only 22 meteorites have been known to have fallen since 1623, two of which were in Wales; the last of these two being at Beddgelert in September 1949, when a 28oz. lump crashed through the roof of the Prince of Wales hotel. Northern Ireland had a fall in April 1969 and the heaviest British fall was at Barwell, Leicestershire, on 24th December 1965. It is incredible to consider that over 20,000,000 meteors enter the atmosphere daily, at a speed of 45 miles per second. Despite this, no death has been recorded, attributable to a meteorite strike.

Bob Halliday (Observatory Director for the Liverpool Astronomical Society) while discussing the Llandrillo affair, said: "Over the past few weeks we have had meteorites much more brilliant and active than anything in the last five years. It is very strange, as they do not fall into the normally predictable pattern of meteorite showers. It is possible that if one was big enough, and travelling slow enough, it could have survived entry into the atmosphere and come down. To produce a tremor of this scale it would have to be of tremendous size. Personally I would have thought it unlikely, but nevertheless it is possible."

The normal predictable pattern of meteorite showers to which Bob Halliday refers, occurs between January 1-4 (known as the Quadrantids, which reach their maximum on Jan 3). The Lyrids, which are very swift meteors, occur annually on April 19 - 22. Uncharacteristically for such phenomena, the recent meteoric activity (of which Llandrillo may be a part) falls between the known Quadrantids and the Lyrids, forming yet another inconsistent element in the enigma.

Meteorites, fireballs and UFOs seem to possess certain characteristics that are interrelated, and having gathered as many available details on the Llandrillo affair, it was but an obvious step to ascertain if any of the facts correlated with those collected by Ufologists. The results proved positive, and while correlations are on an objective basis, the interpretation of their possible significance must unfortunately be seen subjectively. Five points emerged which I would like to present for the reader's consideration:

1) Reports indicate that lights were seen over the duration of several hours in the Cadair Bronwen area, and not just at the time of, or prior to, the reputed explosion or tremor. The aerial 'fireballs' were described as blueish-green, and while this is a characteristic colour of meteorites, it is also the most frequently reported colour in UFO sightings. UFO literature often contains a mention of Cyan (a blend of blue and green); and John Keel theorises that: "when the objects begin to move into our spatial and time co-ordinates, they gear down from the higher frequencies passing progressively from ultra-violet to bluish-green." I want to stipluate at this point that I am not promoting an argument for the physicality of UFOs, but that the phenomenon that is undoubtedly witnessed, does manifest Cyan as a common colour feature in the majority of cases.

2) The Llandrillo event took place on the night of the 23rd and early hours of the 24th of January - and it is somewhat weird to note that precisely these days of the month occur time and again in the events and lives of the personalities associated with UFOlogy. George Adamski, one of the first reputed UFO contactees, died on the 23rd; Kenneth Arnold, who started the modern awareness when he saw a "chain of saucer-like things at least 5 miles long" made his sighting on 24th June 1947; Arthur Bryant, another reputed contactee, died of a brain tumor on the 24th, and author Frank Edwards died only a few hours before Bryant. Richard Church, Frank Scully (both UFO researchers) and Willy Ley (a pioneer rocket authority) all died at this significant part of the month which recurs in the multitude of Ufo studies, and is included here in relation to the Llandrillo event, for even if it is a coincidence it is not one that should go unnoticed. ⸸ It will interest some of you that Dr Edward Condon, the distinguished researcher of UFOs, has recently died on the 25 March 74, aged 72. Not a hit with the recurring date of 23/4, but close enough to be interesting. An obituary appears in the MUFOB Bulletin (Vol 6, No 4.), and thanks to David J McAllister who spotted the announcement in the Daily Mail 28 March 74. ⸸

3) UFO activity and prehistoric sites are known to relate by virtue of some as-yet-undiscovered principle. The site of the Llandrillo event is also a complex of prehistoric constructions; Cadair Bronwen, a cairn 300 feet in circumference; Cadair Berwyn (Moel Sych) 180 feet around; a megalithic stone circle, Moel Ty Uchaf, which has 41 set stones; and on the opposite side of the valley, an ancient fort, the remains of which extend 225 x 265 feet with a 3ft bank or scarp. The vicar of Llandrillo kindly supplied details of the key sites in the area. An association between prehistoric sites and meteorites was discovered a few years ago by Mr Smithett of the British Society of Dowsers, when he ascertained that certain stones in megalithic constructions had originated from space. It was found that

some stones gave a count of 16, both on rods and pendulums - which suggests an extraterrestrial origin, because meteorites have also been found to give a count of 16. It is known that one of the stones in the Rollright circle is definitely meteroic. At the present time I have no data to indicate that such a test has been performed at Cadair Bronwem and the neighbouring sites.

4) The centre of the Llandrillo activity was focussed on the 2,572 feet high Cadair Bronwen (Ordnance Survey ref: SJ 077 347) which is recorded on many maps as Bwrdd Arthur (Arthur's Table). This is one of the 230 known Arthurian sites in Britain.

5) The final significant factor is that Arthur's Table, the calculated site of the Llandrillo explosion, is on a defined system of alignments, each intersecting at highly relevant angles when considered in relation to the Earth's obliquity of the Ecliptic. Arthur's Table is on five alignments with 47^{o} between two lines; and one is connected to another by 47^{o}. One of the first two runs to near-by Moel Ty Uchaf stone circle, and then onto the Gaer, or fort. The constructions forming these alignments have a direct relationship to the obliquity of the Ecliptic, for the lines intersect at angles of $23\frac{1}{2}^{o}$ and its multiples - 47, $70\frac{1}{2}$ and 94. How this sophisticated piece of knowledge was known to the ancients is beyond our present understanding, but it is embodied across Arthur's Table for all to see.

As unorthodox as these methods of investigation and research maybe, what does seem to be revealed is that on five counts the Llandrillo/Arthur's Table event (at that time and place), does not seem to be either arbitrary, nor unrelated to the enigmatic history and peculiar characteristics of similar occurances. Further research may reveal other undetected and unsuspected patterns which, however open-mindedly they are viewed, continue to transcend and elude ordinary logic and intellectually based reasoning.

Whatever the relative merits or demerits of new or unorthodox investigative methods that are at present called heretical, the Llandrillo phenomena present the perfect opportunity for rational and unbiased research, avoiding the opposing dangers of superstitious credulity and rigid materialism - the former the blind spot of traditional occultism and the latter the Achilles heel of modern physical science.

The whole Llandrillo enigma remains a classical Fortean mystery indeed, but one that is probably more of a mystery than we had initially realised.

* * * * * * * *

Some further information on Welsh earthquakes came our way by one of those 'happy accidents' that the library goblins cook up for us now and then. In the course of following up some other research we had Charles Davison's 'History of British Earthquakes' (Cambridge Universtity Press 1924) with several chapters on the quakes of north and south Wales. A couple of items were of particular interest. Firstly, William Porter mentions above the meteorite of Beddgelert - well it seems that there was also an earthquake there, 45 years earlier, on 21 Oct 1904. Since both meteorites and quakes are not that common in the relatively small area of Wales this may be worthy of some note.

Secondly, from elsewhere, we had learnt that the Dee valley (which cuts through the Berwyn hills from Llandrillo to Corwen) lies on a known line called the Great Bala fault. And from Davison we learn that a quake occurred on 1 July 1903 at 1.16am, in an area 7 miles long and $2\frac{1}{2}$ wide from near Bala to near Llandrillo (its centre was about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile NW of Llanderfel). For reference freaks the original report was in Geological Magazine, Vol 1 p539, 1904. On the strength of what has come to light one way or another, we can only endorse Porter's last sentence. The incident at Llandrillo, 23rd Jan this year, seems not to be the result of 'coincidence' of tremor & meteorite - and if it is part of a pattern, then this is too vast for us to determine within the conventionalities of modern science. As at Beddgelert, we have earthquakes and meteorites (or some mechanism that synchronises a display of aerial lights with the tremor) associated with a particular place. See Fort's 'New Lands' for many coincidences of aerial concussions & lights, quakes, and falls of stones. Indeed, if some of the listed earthquakes may not have been 'proper' quakes, then some meteorites deserve a closer look. For instance, the 'Barwell Meteorite' is numbered among the Included ... but we have come upon a datum that arouses our suspicions - that a village postman reported stones falling around him. We will attempt to discover more.

A brief but very informative survey of the megalithic artifacts in the vicinity of the Llandrillo incident, including a first hand account by its author is in THE LEY HUNTER No 53, March 74.; 'The Explosion and Earthquakes of January 23,1974! by ACM Jones.

FOWL FUNNIES / cont...

WHICH CAME FIRST - THE EGG OR THE EGG?

Mrs Isabella Lees sat down to lunch and found something that has put her off eggs for a long time. Inside a normal egg she had boiled was another, smaller but perfectly formed. It is speckled brown and looks like a small bird's egg. Mrs Lees, of Northlands Rd, Winterton, showed it to Mr Bernard Walker, Curator of Natural History at Scunthorpe Museum, who said: "I've never known it happen before." Scunthorpe Star. 22 March 74. Credit: N Watson. The moral is implied of the wisdom of subscribing to THE NEWS, beacuse our readers will be able to turn to Mark Hall's column (a few pages on) to learn of a hen regularly producing doubles. We certainly seem to be having a spate of en-egg-mas in this and the previous issue.

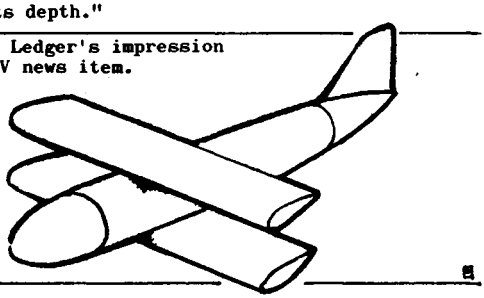
marine mysteries

MYSTERY OBJECT WASHED-UP ON BEACH.

Philip Ledger has been following the developments surrounding the discovery of a mysterious 'plane-like' object washed ashore near the South Stack cliffs, near Holyhead, Anglesey, on the night of 4 Feb 74. It was described as being 9ft long, with a wingspan of 5ft, with a black aluminium body and the remnants of an aerial, and pretty heavy. It bore obvious traces of being carried in and out on the tide for a few days - obvious, that is, to the police spokesman.

The RAF and the Aberporth Range Establishment (which as far as mortals can tell, belongs to the Army) have both said it is 'not one of theirs'. A description of the device was sent to the Navy's underwater research base at Portsmouth, but there has been no sign of recognition in the subsequent press. A Bomb Disposal Squad from Liverpool came and pronounced it quite safe - nevertheless, the Holyhead coastguards were reported to "have been instructed not to comment" (North Wales Chronicle 7 Feb 74). Official speculation ran the gamut of the obvious, including "it could have been towed behind a ship, and the 'wings' could have regulated its depth."

Philip Ledger's impression from TV news item.



A filmed news item, on the local TV network, showed the device to thousands. Philip Ledger noted that the 'wings' had a very definite aerofoil section - and, sad to say, the end 'tail' had been detatched by souvenir hunters. A coastguard added that: "Several plugholes and discs on the outside point to the fact that it is full of instruments." As far as we know, it is still there - having been left until someone comes along to identify it. (Credit: Philip Ledger. Other source Liverpool Daily Post, 5 Feb 74.)

THE DOOM THAT CAME TO DUNWICH.

Diver Stuart Bacon is trying to solve the mystery of the bell often heard clanging in the town of Dunwich, which now lies under the sea off the Suffolk coast. Fishermen and villagers nearby say they often hear the bell in stormy weather. Mr Bacon has a theory that the tidal flow causes the bell, supposed to be in one of the old churches, to ring. He is chairman of a diving club which is helping to chart the major buildings in the submerged city - but the extremely poor visibility makes the work slow and difficult. Sunday Express, 21 April 74. Credit: P Rogerson, Steve Moore & R Cotton.

We seem to remember a documentary on vanished English villages (BBC2, not long ago) and one of the more memorable sights was the erosion of Dunwich, which began its slide into the sea in 1328. All that remains of this once thriving Anglian seaport is the cemetary and a few church walls high on the cliffs above the town. But even here the steady slip has worked its way through - the face of the new cliff being gruesomely studded with skulls and bones, recently exposed, staring blankly as they await a new and watery burial.

MYSTERY SUBMARINE ALERT : IRISH COAST.

After the phantom helicopter (next issue will carry a map of the sightings) we should be prepared for a phantom sub. At 4am on 30 March, the Master of the 'Rathmines' radioed to coastguards on the Irish coast at Limerick, that one of his crew had just spotted the 'black superstructure of a submarine' - and it disappeared when a searchlight was switched on. (Credit: Nigel Watson, R Cotton & P Rogerson, for cuttings from the Sunday Express 31 March 74). The Royal Navy disowned the errant 'sub', and when the local police were put on the alert, the inference was of arms smuggling to the IRA - a convenient 'get-out' also used in the phantom copter episode.

The hypothesis is also given that a 'foreign' sub might have strayed off-course and came up to get its bearings (or whatever). But it was also pointed out to be well within Irish territorial waters. Credence could be given to this theory, since 'foreign' covers a multitude of origins, even psychic ones. However, we need not look deliberately for exotic mysteries when perfectly mundane ones abound. The Sunday Express, a week later, (7 April) carried the story of a ship lost where you would normally think it impossible. The 'Ken Lung', a Formosan bulk-carrier held together by rust, put out of Bordeaux bound for Hamburg - and then got lost. The sea was calm, the weather was clear, and the lookouts had been keeping their eyes peeled (a curious expression) for any sign of land or ship for two whole days - but nothing. When the first ship came along, the Chinese skipper asked politely where he was. He was in the middle of the English Channel - possibly the busiest stretch of water in the world, where normally a navigational error can lead to disaster, and where in the past 13 years, 107 lives, and £40 million shipping has been lost. He was put in touch with the St Margarets Bay, Kent, coastguards who asked him to steam in a circle, and then directed him on his way after identifying him. Now British marine experts are said to be puzzled as to how a ship of 10,000 tons could be lost for so long in a busy shipping lane on a perfect day. It is not clear what navigational equipment was on board and the experts are even questioning the qualifications of the Captain. Whenever a mystery arises, Lo! another mystery of minor but explanainable sorts pops-up; and then ipso fatso the first is rendered amenable to the soft magic of logic. But if you look closely you can detect the joins.

Daily Express 24 April 74 - A police alert on the coast of Co. Cork, Ireland, after a mystery sub was sighted - the second in a month.

strange relations

We have noted in the past some evidences of apparent hostility by a number of species toward man. And before you shake your head and wonder just why we should be disliked so grievously, let us tell you of a few curious cases of infatuation where few would suspect even friendship. Indeed we were first alerted to the possibilities by the following letter to the Daily Mirror (30 Oct 73. (Credit: Robert Forrest) :-

DOGGED BY A PAIR OF SPIDERS.

"Two large black spiders cross my dining room floor in the evenings. They move from opposite corners. This has happened now in my past three house moves, in three counties and miles from each other. Furthermore it is always in the dining room! I heard that spiders were supposed to bring luck. I'm happy if I have my health. Has anyone else experienced this unusual sight in more than one move?

Mrs. I Biden. St Marys Ave, Teddington, Middlesex."

We guess our datum might be that living things not normally associated with concept of 'pet-owning' should develop some form of reciprocal relationship. Again from the Daily Mirror (27 Nov 73. Credit: Anthony Smith.) another letter:

GOLDFISH AND CHIPS (ALMOST).

"This is something I would not have believed if I had not witnessed it myself. This speckled goldfish about 6 inches long and about 5 years old belongs to a friend of mine. His name is 'Jambo' - and when he is called by name he pops out of the lily leaves and kisses your fingers. But the other day he nearly had his chips, when he jumped right out of the pond on to the path. Fortunately for him my wife's friend returned him to the pond. It made him very giddy but he was alright again in a few days. Is this unusual, or can he hear his name being spoken?

WJ Earnshaw. Clarence Road, Leighton Buzzard, Beds."

Goldfish, we agree on second thoughts to be pets of a normal sort, but leaping out of ponds when called does not strike us as being respectable - we can only call it 'Guppy Love'. In Mark Hall's FROM MY FILES (No5. March 74) he notes two incidents - Oscar, a Siamese Fighting Fish kept at St. Gregory's College, Shawnee, Okla., shows demonstrable signs of recognising and liking freshwoman Karol Kluge (Houston Chronicle. 5 March 74. p1-7) - and also that Jo Welber of Smith Lake, near Cullman, Alabama, has trained a school of Carp to feed from a baby-bottle and leap from the water for a reward of minnows. (Minneapolis Star. 10 Sept 73). If all this seems absurd, we have to admit we print some preposterous stories - and they don't come any more preposterous than the story about:

THE SCOTSMAN, THE LIZARD AND THE TANK.

During World War 2, William Collison served in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in the Western Desert - and it was there that he met and formed a strong attatchment to Joey, a little green lizard. Joey would follow Jock (William's nickname) everywhere. Jock used to leave a saucer of water for him - and Joey insisted on catching his own food. At night Joey would creep into Jock's tent and sleep on his shoulder. And once, when on parade with 2000 other troops, Joey managed to single out Jock, climb up his leg and hide in his haversack. Joey would come slithering whenever Jock called - and the happy couple could often be seen out together on Jock's motorbike.

This story has something of interest (or rather of more direct interest) to Forteans. As in the best love stories, the inevitable posting came - Jock was packed off to Italy after a sad farewell. A few weeks after Jock got to his new barracks in Sicily, Joey turned up. Just how he got there was, and always will be, impossible to discover. Flying and walking rule themselves out. Did he stow away? Well, how would he know which ship, etc? Did he swim? Is that possible? Perhaps he teleported? - we know from our studies that the appearance and disappearance of a wide variety of species-members can lead to the supposition of teleportation. Could the transference (if such it was) have affected Joey's normal lightning reflexes? Well, he was certainly sluggish enough not to notice the massive tank that rumbled toward him, one day not long after his arrival in Sicily. Too bad, really - it cured him of ever feeling sluggish again, but Joey wasn't together enough to appreciate it.

Jock now lives at Wheatland Close, Liverpool, and still remembers the day he buried his little green comrade. "He was the best pet I ever had. And I've had dogs, cats and horses." (Weekend. 28 Nov - 4 Dec 73. Credit: Anthony Smith.)

ripley or not!

COINCIDENCE, FATE - OR WHAT?

Following the publication of the 'Roots of Coincidence' last year, the Sunday Times printed an article by Arthur Koestler on the patterns we often read into chance events. It ended with a request for readers to send in their stories. That was 25 Nov 73 - and recently (5 May 74) the Sunday Times feature Koestler's follow-up using the material sent-in - well several stories out of the reported 'several thousand' at least. We often wonder what happens to the material generated by these big-name blow-outs. There were several examples of a kind of story Koestler called 'Crossed Lines'... we find we have a few on our files and they may as well be told here.

Passers-by ignored the old tramp sitting on the wall outside the railway station at Kingston, Surrey. Ron Hallard would have passed too, but he looked up and saw - his long lost dad, who had suffered a nervous breakdown during the blitz and disappeared in 1958 without a word to anybody. Even the Salvation Army had given him up for dead News of the World, 17 March 74.

Continued on page 17.

THE INTERFACE & THE PATHS OF DESTINY.

by Paul Screeton.

Once upon a time mankind did not pigeon-hole each branch of science - or rather the area it understood. In days long gone by man did not seek to departmentalize the factors of his existence. All formed one fundamental, coherent cosmology sustaining a stable society.

The critical question is inevitable: how did the equilibrium shift? Perhaps it was part of a great cycle of time? Whatever it was, we are now left groping in the ruined haunted house, awaiting illumination, but doing precious little to bring it about.

What is an unhappy reality is that astrology became a debased astronomy (c'mon, own up about Kohoutek!); alchemy which charged the soul became mundane chemistry (thalidomide, and terminal valium freaks); numerology was divorced from gematria and emigrated to academic tedium.

Charles Fort had his filing system and his categories, but like the late Alfred Watkins who discovered the Ley system, he did not take the negative, soft option of feebly specialising and concentrating on one miniscule aspect of our totality. Fort saw the vast panorama of the borderline bewilderment nudging us daily, yet ignored by official science.

Alfred Watkins had the fortune to rediscover the simple yet devastatingly valid fact that Britain - and all countries - are criss-crossed by a network of alignments linking sacred sites. He chose to present these as trackways, though subsequent generations have largely speculated that the lines are, in fact, the paths of a subtle current, whose nature is as mercurial as its archetypal guardian deity, Hermes. Indications are that Alfred Watkins, a psychic who suppressed his gift, had more than an inkling of the importance of the discovery he made in 1921.

The academic fraternity, predictably, was hostile to Watkins. Likewise today, the ivory-tower brigade are uncomfortable in the presence of disturbing evidence of a prehistoric civilisation equally advanced as today's and with an alien technology.

Verification of the Ley system is a simple matter. Using a six-inch Ordnance Survey map of any part of Britain, draw circles around all prehistoric sites and pre-Reformation churches; then using a ruler draw lines where four or more sites align exactly. You will find a great many alignments, beyond the bounds of mathematical probability, on any map - also, patterns and focal points with three or more lines passing through one spot.

I embraced the Ley philosophy like a long lost friend - as many do - but have rationalized my assessment of the lines' nature by the simple rule of experience. I now know by a biophysical reaction when a Ley's energy is active. It will take time, but I suspect that positive evidence can be produced to reveal that much 'interface' activity (ghosts, UFOs, elementals, etc) is directly linked to the Ley system.

But to be fair, not only the archeological professionals are blameworthy. It is disarming that while we might be regarded as a lunatic fringe, there is within our ranks a sloppy, woolly, ill-informed, uncritical element whose activities and writings, enthusiastic though they may be, do nothing but bring the subject into disrepute and ridicule.

The blinkered approach of archaeologists, who see sites in isolation, is so sadly pathetic that it is unworthy of incisive comment. Where the salaried pundits are out of step is the reality of today's Aquarian antiquarians' new-found 'live archaeology'. The sites are not ages-dead, but generate, as they did thousands of years ago, a spiritual sensitivity which transcends time - and linking them are the Leys, the power grid, the web of eternity, the enchanted everlasting lines of destiny.

* * *

Paul Screeton is Editor of the excellent LEY HUNTER, a duplicated magazine of articles and notes related to and exploring the triplet of Ley facets; the 'energy' and its technology, the spiritual and philosophic implications, and the rediscovery of the system by fieldwork and other research. See the advertisement elsewhere in this issue. Paul Screeton is also the author of an illustrated compendium of tales, folklore and folkwisdom from the north east of England. Called 'Quicksilver Heritage', it is due out this Autumn.

"Actually, it's a damn disgrace; it should have been let years ago."

by WILLIAMS

Stephen Malenda was urged by friends to go fishing to forget the recent disappearance of his 6-year-old boy in January. He settled down at a lagoon just 200 yards from his home in Mentor, Ohio, and cast his line...and reeled in his son's body. Daily Mirror, 16 March 74. Credit: R Forrest

"Is this a million-to-one chance? I received two Christmas cards, one from a son in Britain, and one from a son in Los Angeles. There are both exacly the same." Letter from Mrs Freda Hurst in Daily Express 14 Dec 73.

Veronica Mullens and Anthony Pitt were married at Dowlais, Glamorgan. There names were recorded next to each other on the Merthyr Tydfil birth register 22 years ago. Sunday Mirror 3 March 74.

But perhaps the most remarkable tale is that of young Roger Lausier. When he was 4-years-old he strayed away from his mother, along the beach at Salem, Massachusetts. He paddled and got caught by a powerful undercurrent, and would have drowned but for a woman who brought him ashore and revived him. The rescuer, Alice Blaise, refused all rewards, and left wishing the infant luck. Nine years later, Roger was a strong swimmer and was tracking a shoal of bluefish when he heard a woman scream: "My husband is drowning! My husband is drowning!" Roger saw a heavily built man had fallen from his powerboat and was floundering helplessly. Roger paddled his inflated raft over in time to clutch the drowning man's hand - then the man's bulk and the weight of wet clothing threatened to collapse the frail support. Roger managed to keep the man's head up, but the stiff currents were pulling them further out to sea. Shortly another boat got to them, and they went safely ashore. In the hospital the woman kissed the boy: "I'm Alice Blaise, and I can't thank you enough for saving my Bob." Roger had no idea who Mrs Blaise was until the story came out during a presentation to him by the Massachusetts Humane Society. He had saved the husband of the woman who had saved him on the same beach nine years previously. Sunday Express, 21 April 74. Credit: P Rogerson & Richard E Cotton.

DOUBLE TROUBLE.

Two motorists who drove through thick fog with their heads out of their windows - cracked their skulls together. They are recovering in a Northern Italian hospital. Daily Mirror 20 Nov 73. Credit: Steve Moore. Another curious story comes from the Sun 23 April 74. Two cars smashed into each other head-on in the village of Outwick, Hants, and both drivers ran off in different directions. Both cars had been stolen.

Identical twins Frank and Jack Clatworthy were lying side-by-side in hospital after crashing in quite separate accidents on the same road. Frank was driving home to Washford, Somerset, from a party when his car overturned. An hour later, Jack, who knew nothing of his brother's misfortune, crashed on the same road returning from the same party. For other stories of enigmatic synchronicities concerning locations and events see back to 'Deaths in 2s and 3s.'

Another set of identical twins got their big break similarly on the same day and within minutes of each other. Wendy Styles of Brading, Isle of Wight, broke her leg while vaulting in the school gym. While she was waiting for a doctor to arrive, her sister Denise was carried out having just broken hers. Daily Mirror 22 Dec 73. Individually these stories are ignored, or casually accepted as 'just one of those things' that happen all the time, and to everybody. What kind of forces, we ask, can move implacably, powerfully, by turns gentle and savage, through the events of our daily lives. It's the scale of it all that boggles. We have a hypothesis that we only notice universal mechanisms when they go wrong - not that we have any idea of how to measure 'right' or 'wrong' in this context - and we suspect this will be a major battleground against the 'Unknown' in years to come. We at least will be working towards our understanding of such things. We mentioned earlier Koestler's books on Coincidences - its a step, but only just since statistics is no substitute for understanding. Indeed they handle only parts of the problem, and we harbour doubts that they can effectively come to grips with mechanisms that effect patterns not only on the macrocosmic scale but down to the minutest details of daily life that we tend to think of as uncoordinated and meaningless. It is likely to call for new methods of understanding, and our old chauvinisms could prove to be of little or limited value.

swarms

IT'S NOT CRICKET.

A massive invasion of swarms of crickets brought panic to two towns in Brazil. In Altinho, about 150 miles from Recife, families abandoned their homes and businesses have collapsed. Reporters who visited the town said: "One woman has gone mad. People march in religious processions, do penance, make votary promises and believe it is a punishment of God, the end of the world." A priest cabled yesterday from the other town, Cachoeirinha. He said the situation was intolerable there - and that millions of crickets were still arriving. Daily Mirror. 25 Oct 71. Credit: Anthony Smith.

ANTS ON RAMPAGE.

A column of killer ants a mile long and half a mile wide marched on the Brazilian town of Goiania and devoured several people - including the Chief of police. 60 firemen with flamethrowers took 16 hours to drive the ants back into the jungle. Sunday People. 9 Dec 73. Credit: Cathy Purcell.

GHOST SPIDERS IN THE SKY.

Millions of spiders floated across the sky in parts of South-Eastern Australia on strands of webbing. Huge areas are covered with the thick snow-like webs - and whole clouds of webs, some thousands of feet high, often blot out the sky. Daily Express. 27 May 74. Credit: HJ Wilkinson. From the same paper and date we learn that at the same time there are 'freak' storms along the East coast of Australia - may or may not be any connection, but those web-clouds couldn't have stayed up if they started to collect water.

REVIEWS

'STRANGE PHENOMENA' - ISBN: 0.9600712.1.0., 277p.
'STRANGE ARTIFACTS' - ISBN: 0.9600712.2.9., 262p.
Both looseleaf in a ring-binder format - and each $6.95 from the compiler, William R Corliss, POBox 107, Glen Arm, Maryland 21057. USA.

These two volumes are the first two in a new series of sourcebooks on unusual phenomena and Fortean enigmas generally. The result of many years planning and reasearch, it goes without saying that these and the promised additional volumes belong in the library of every Fortean, researcher and scientific historian.

Corliss has devised a flexible classification and retrieval system that (thank the Lord) doesn't straightjacket the phenomena and is not too cumbersome if you know what you want info on. The reference material itself consists of extracts and (some) summaries of original papers and observations from scientific journals, going back to the middle 19th century, and few of the sources are less than 50 years old. Thus by collecting the original statements and consequently often the hardest to track down, he has done the whole field of Fortean and allied interests a very great service. Briefly, each volume is divided into generic categories, as follows:

'PHENOMENA'(Vol-G1.)

Electromagnetic ph'ma.
Falling Material.
Luminous phenomena.
Crustal Movements.
Sound phenomena.
Weather phenomena.

(To come in Vol-G2.)

Electromagnetic (cont).
Falling material (cont).
Gravitation & Temporal anomalies.
Incendiary phenomena.
Magnetic & Electrical phenomena.
Odors.
Crustal movements (cont).
Volcanic phenomena.
Weather phenomena (cont).

'ARTIFACTS' (Vol-M1.)

Anthropological evidence on Physical & Social characteristics, etc.
Geological Artifacts, inc. Fossilised footprints
Graphic Artifacts.
Legends,Myths & Concepts, of Gods & Giants.
Manufactured Artifacts.
Structural Artifacts inc canals, Standing Stones, Forts, Mounds, Pyramids, and Mines.

(To come in Vol-M2.)

Anthropological (cont.)
Graphic (cont).
Legends, Myths, Concepts of Dwarfs, Elementals, & Origin of Man.
Manufatured (cont.)
Structural (cont) inc. Obelisks & Walls.

All of the data is cross-referenced (where relevant) with Place-of-Event, Time-of-Event, and Quote source Indexes. Corliss deserves our heartfelt thanks for this invaluable and indeed essential reference work - a labour of love exceedingly well done.

* * *

'THE MAN IN THE SHROUD' - Peter M Rinaldi. Futura pb. 40 pence. 125pp. ISBN: 0.8600.7010.7.

Rinaldi is a priest, and one of the few who have been allowed over some time, to study the curious Shroud of Turin, on which the image of the dead Christ is reputedly imprinted. That the fragile cloth bears the image of a wounded man fitting the (often contradictory) details of the Christ legend is attested to by the copious photos. This 'book' however is pretty thin and set in large type - an annotated paper with illos and a useful bibliography. But you can overlook that if you're interested in the subject.

* * *

'THE SECRET PLACES OF THE LION'- George Hunt Williamson. Futura pb. 40 pence. 230pp. ISBN: 0.8600.7011.5.

This was one of the first influences on your editor's developing Fortean bent back in 58/59. It was also one of the first to extrapolate the now familiar themes of ancient astronauts and hidden knowledge. But Williamson's story mainly concerns a small group of 'teachers' (or Initiators, as Charroux would say) who reincarnate in different combinations at various times to guide Man's bumbling steps, and mostly concentrates on their exploits in 18th/19th Dynasty Egypt (the time of Amunhotep, Tutankhamun, Akhnaton, and he would have us believe, David & Solomon) preparing the ground for the greater Initiator, Christ.

Like James Churchward (of the 'MU' books) Williamson claims secret knowledge was given him (in this case by a hidden Brotherhood in the Andes) which enables him to reveal the 'true' implications of key events and people in our past. And there, in a gloriously lurid red and yellow blurb-splash are such 'key' questions as: Is there a secret temple under the Sphinx; and an ancient spaceship under the Gt. Pyramid? Where is the Holy Grail? Was Melchizedek also Shem? Did Atlantis & Lemuria ever exist? Who were the Hyskos?

Most of us (who haven't degrees in Aramaic, etc) have no practical way of judging the validity of such correlative studies of the (alien) origin of Man - but much of this, I venture, seems like conjecture substantiated by dubious and uncheckable references, made plausible by the obssessive confidence the man has in his thesis. The nuts who think the 'alien gods' concept is TRUE because they 'read it in a book' will see here more 'incontrovertable' proof that what they have always known and told themselves REALLY IS true. I don't mean to be patronising, but I find these books on probable pasts enormously entertaining - that is if you don't take them too obsessively and can wade through huge slabs of turgid prose. But seriously - there are some really exciting ideas here (it would be interesting to check out his re-chronology of the Moses/Solomon period of Egyptian history with that of Velikovsky in his 'Ages in Chaos', eg.) and we welcome every effort to explore them. On this point the paperback carries a flyleaf appeal for funds to support Dr. Williamson in the latest leg of his 'expedition to Europe' investigating pre-Columbian landings on the Americas, and Atlantean UFOs. We, as they say, await developments .

* * *

'URI' - Andrija Puharich. WH Allen. £2.95. 285pp. ISBN: 0.491.01960.2.

If Williamson's book (above) seems like fiction dressed up as fact, Puharich's biography and study of Uri Geller and his powers gives the impression of being the exact reverse. This book is genuinely incredible. The accounts of telepathy, clairvoyance, psychokinesis and mystical experiences, are by any standards remarkable, but they pale and become quite ordinary when the eons-old computer-linked alien intelligences in their vast planetoid spaceships, hovering in the furthest reaches of the galaxy, turn up. If you take away the trappings of science-fiction imagery, Geller's seems like a classic case of possession. These beings speak through him, and any cassette-recorder lying about; trances and visions ; a sense of 'things ordained by higher (or stronger) powers', and things moving 'by themselves.'

Indeed, these intelligences, which rejoice in names like Hoova, Spectra and 'The Nine', reveal that they have 'programmed' Geller's life, right down to the crazy poltergeist pranks - and soon it seems that a small circle of friends , including Puharich himself, come under their control. Puharich seems to believe this implicitly. One of the overall characteristics of Geller's proxy talents seems to be some sort of influence over what others see. Whether this is deliberate or unconscious or working to an 'outside' direction is secondary to the fact that different people swear they have seen different things going on - and sadly the possibility of an illusion-generating power (direct psychokinetic adjustment of brain nurones?) is not considered in this book. However, it does keep cropping up - in, for example, the almost constant UFO activity in the vicinity of Geller's group, which no-one else is able to see 'unless the Computers allow it'. The variety of the UFO (or rather wereUFO) forms, including an archetypal guardian 'White Hawk' elemental - all evidence (of a sort) for the psychological origins of UFOs. The awesome power of the illusion-projection ability almost defies thought - any amount of seemingly real evidence could be manufactured. It all smacks of plots and paranoia - John Keel country.

As the story unfolds of how Puharich came to study Geller, and of their (at times) stormy friendship, the wonders come thick and fast - why should Computers half a galaxy away interfere with life on Earth to produce someone like Geller receptive to their control, and then lark about bending spoons, vanishing all the tape and cine cassettes with valuable evidence on them, making a watch appear on a wrist, etc etc? Geller says: "I think somebody is playing games with us. Perhaps they are a civilisation of clowns. Or maybe one of their clowns escaped and he is playing games with us."

In the true tradition of cosmic jesting, the sinister is mixed in with the laughs. Puharich and others experience peculiar 'time-jumps' and Geller appears to suffer from periodic selective amnesia. It could all be the result of seperate but co-ordinated illusions again. In one episode Geller and Puharich got whisked away to the spaceship and back (subjectively many hours) all while an ashtray was frozen in its flight. No not TK this time - Uri had thrown it at Puharich during an argument. And then there is the matter of the teleporting of Puharich's dog to some hundreds of yards outside the house where seconds before it was minding its own business. And as if this wasn't enough, political intrigue gets dragged in via the Israeli secret service who become concerned about the activities of Puharich and (we are told) the little tricks the aliens are playing on their efforts to bug and shadow Geller's group.

Here too is the illuminating story of the campaigns to discredit Geller and Puharich and the carefully calm film of the Stamford Research Institute experiments (of which there is a transcript here) which show Geller, quite clearly, mentally manipulating rows of matches and deflect the needle in a shielded magnetometer. Reference is made in the book to Geller bending a machined ring with a force of 150lbs while they were constantly scanned by an 'acoustic' holograph device. This showed up the bones of the hand holding the ring - but as the ring began its deformation the video equipment was affected, and the distorted TV record was thought to be 'unsuitable' as evidence.

All in all, it is a surprising story to hear from a 'respected' scientist - and Puharich readily admits his 'conversion' from scientific objectivity to a mystical certainty that the lives of himself and the small group are closely directed by 'The Nine'. He is also eager to stress that though he uses words like 'computers', 'mind control', 'programmed lives', 'UFOs', and is himself painfully puzzled by the contradictory and sometimes trivial phenomena, what is happening is beyond his (and our) terms of reference, and so it is our normal reaction to rationalise events in terms of our preconceptions and conditioning. But this should not deter us from believing that something extraordinary was going on, and that this small band of psychically sensitive people (at once familiar with psionic research and science-fiction) were (willing or otherwise) the catalysts.

Indeed, this book seems quite different from the 'normal' run out to convert you to the expected heresies - there is no close reasoning; facile or dazzling explanations. It comes across as the testimony of an honest and disillusioned scientist trying to come to grips with his experience of the really Unknown.

* * *

Also received were:

'PSYCHOANALYSIS & THE OCCULT' - George Devereaux editor. Condor/Souvenir Press. £3.00. pb £1.50. 432pp. ISBN: 0.285.64738.5. being collected papers by Freud, Eisenbud, Fodor, Gillespie and other psychoanalysts on the occurrence of telepathy, precognition, etc during analysis, dreams, and everyday situations. Index and Bibliography.

'MAGIC, SCIENCE & RELIGION' - Essays by Bronislaw Malinowski. Condor/Souvenir Press. £2.50. pb £125

274pp. ISBN: 0.285.64739.3. Malinowski, a disciple of Sir James 'Golden Bough' Fraser, collects here his essays on the parallels in 'primitive' archetypal thought patterns in science, magic and religion.

'ZEN BUDDHISM & PSYCHOANALYSIS' papers by Erich Fromm, DT Suzuki & R De Martino. Condor/Souvenir Press. £2.50. pb £1.25. 180pp. ISBN:0.285.64740.7 An excellent set of lectures by Suzuki on the relevance of Zen to the Western world. All three of the above books throw some light on the possible development of Fortean methodology. We note obvious points of contact between the Fortean view of the Universe, Zen and indeed the subconscious processes of mind (even Cosmic Mind). We would like to see this whole area explored more and invite comment from our readers.

did you see.. ..?

Hopefully we extend our coverage to mentions of articles etc. likely to be of interest to you all from the journals and other mags. If you come across anything you think might be of interest to other Forteans then please let us know. Just note the titles of the piece and publication, the author, date and pages if possible and drop us a post card. These days it is physically impossible to cover all the publications that interest you personally, so you might be glad to catch something here that you might have missed. So do someone else a favour - and make the effort. You know it makes sense.

'Velikovsky: AAAS forum for a mild collision.' Robert Gillette. SCIENCE Vol183 pp1059-1062. 15 March 74.

'Leys and Energy.' MW Pearson. THE LEY HUNTER No 53 pp 5-6. March 74.

'Orientation of Homing Pigeons altered by a change in the direction of an Applied Magnetic Field' C Walcott & RP Green. SCIENCE Vol.184 pp180-182. 12 April 74.

'New Evidence for the Antiquity of Man in North America deduced from Aspartic Acid Racemization.' JL Bada, RA Schroeder & GF Carter. SCIENCE Vol.184 pp791-793. 17 May 74.

'UFO Reports from AIAA Members.' PA Sturrock. ASTRONAUTICS & AERONAUTICS May 74. pp60-64.

'Major Flap in US' Eileen Buckle. pp2-5.
'Abduction at Bebedouro' HB Alexio. pp6-14.
'Landing at Columbia, Missouri'. Ted Phillips. pp18-25. FLYING SAUCER REVIEW Vol.19 No6. Nov/Dec 73.

'Abominable Swampman of Florida's Everglades' W& E Hartley. MEN July 74 pp16-18,78,79.

'Extended Glow preceding Reappearance of Saturn during a Lunar Occultation'. G Reed, FJ Howell & TA Clark. NATURE Vol.247. 15 Feb 74. pp447-448.

'Seafloor Spread Theory & Odyssey of Green Turtle' A Carr & PJ Coleman. NATURE Vol.249 10 May 74. pp128-130.

'Northampton's Prize Pyram[illegible]' DESIGN No301 Jan 74 pp56-61. (Mentioned in NEWS 2 p17.)

'Danikenitis - Interview with Von Daniken.' Roy Stemman. PREDICTION Vol. 40 No6. pp18-20. June 74.

'Are Psychoenergetic Pictures Possible?'. William A Tiller. NEW SCIENTIST Vol. 62. 25 April 74. pp 160-163.

'Psychic Uri Geller'. TG Beckley & H Salkin. SAGA July 74. pp28-30,54, 56, 58.

'Yin Yang Hypothesis of Growth Control'. Dr B Hogan & Dr R Shields. NEW SCIENTIST Vol.62. 9 May 74. pp323-325.

'The Brain's other Half'. Prof Robert Ornstein. NEW SCIENTIST Vol.62 6 June 74. pp606-608.

'Verdict on the Vinland Map'. Elia Campbell. GEOGRAPHICAL MAGAZINE Vol. XLVI No7. April 74. pp 307-312. (Good illustrations of the map.)

Compilation Credits: Mark Hall, Philip Ledger.

ADS

THE LEY HUNTER. A magazine of Ancient Skills & Wisdom

Specimen copy ... 15p inc. post.
6 Months ..... 75p " " .
1 year ..... £1.50p " " .

5 Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Co. Durham, TS25 2AT.

THE NEWS is available from the following specialist book services who keep wide-ranging stocks of Fortean, Occult, UFO and general books, including science fiction, etc. A ± denotes a mail-order service with lists available by request.

NEW DIMENSIONS (±). PO Box 323, Arlington, Va 22210, USA.

DARK THEY WERE AND GOLDEN EYED (±). 10 Berwick St, London W1V3RG.

JAPETUS. 201 Corporation St, Birmingham B4 6SE.

LIONEL BEER (±). 15 Freshwater Court, Crawford St, London W1H 1HS.

Please mention THE NEWS when you follow up any adverts as this not only promotes goodwill but allows the various parties involved to judge the value of their efforts. Thanks.

UFO LECTURE.

Nigel Watson writes that Norman Oliver will be giving a talk to the Scunthorpe UFO Research Society (SUFORS) on 'British Contact Claims' on Monday 7th October. Anyone interested further is invited to write to Nigel Watson at 1 Angerstein Road, Scunthorpe, Lincs, DN17 2LZ.

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR SUB SOON

As an indication of when to renew your subscription - we have put a number in the top right-hand corner of your address label on the envelope. This is the number of issues you have left TO COME. We would appreciate renewals before your last one if possible, since it helps with the messy paperwork.